

SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA

In the spring of the following year, 1368, the Emperor came again to Italy, as he had promised. He came with an army to carry out the designs of the league against the Visconti, joined forces with the papal troops and those of Queen Giovanna (to whom Urban had just given the Golden Rose), but effected nothing. Having made a truce with Bernabo and accepted a large sum of money from him, he moved southwards into Tuscany.

The rule of the Twelve in Siena was tottering. The party had split into two sections, one of which allied with the Tolomei and other nobles, while the other had the powerful support of the Salimbeni. Giovanni di Agnolino Salimbeni managed to prevent the two factions coming to open war, but, on his return from an embassy to the Emperor, he was killed by a fall from his horse on the way from Siena to his castle of Rocca d'Orcia. The nobles and Noveschi secretly brought troops into the city, and, on September 2, with the support of the populace, they forced the Twelve to surrender the Palace and the entire control of the State. Thirteen consuls were appointed, ten nobles and three Noveschi, who sent Messer Vanni Malavolti and two other ambassadors to the Emperor at Lucca. The Salimbeni and the Dodicini allied, and sent a rival embassy ; Charles accepted their offers, and despatched Malatesta Malatesta to Siena with eight hundred horsemen. On September 24, the Salimbeni, shouting for the People and the Emperor, began a general rising against the new aristocratic regime, and admitted Malatesta and his cavalry. There was furious fighting from street to street, and a last mighty struggle in the Campo round the Palace, which was finally stormed by the imperial troops and sacked by the infuriated populace. The nobles fled the city with their families, while Malatesta fortified himself in the Poggio Malavolti, from which he ruled the city as imperial vicar. A popular council of a hundred and twenty-four plebeians was assembled, called the *Consiglio de' Riformatori*, which created a new Signoria of twelve "Defenders," representatives of all classes of the people. The Salimbeni were given Massa and five other castles in the Sienese